

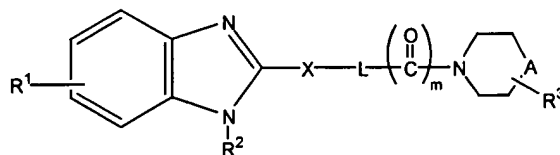
**APPENDIX**  
**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**Claims 13 and 19 are canceled.**

**The claims are amended as follows:**

1. (Amended) A benzimidazole compound represented by the following formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group; R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group; R<sup>3</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the ring containing the nitrogen atom and A; A represents ~~O or~~ CH<sub>2</sub>, or CH which forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom; L represents a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> wherein n represents 1 or 2; X represents O, S or methylene group; and m represents 0 or 1.

4. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of~~ Claimsclaim 1 to 3, wherein each of R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom.

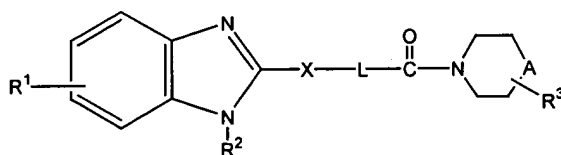
5. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein L is a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group.

6. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein L is a C<sub>5</sub> or C<sub>6</sub> alkylene group.

10. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 7 to 9~~claim 7, wherein R<sup>13</sup> is a functional group selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, an aryl group, a hydroxy group, and a cyano group.

11. (Amended) The compound or a salt thereof according to ~~any one of Claims 7 to 10~~claim 7, wherein L<sup>1</sup> is a C<sub>5</sub> or C<sub>6</sub> alkylene group.

12. (Amended) A medicament pharmaceutical composition comprising the a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 represented by the following formula (I)



wherein, R<sup>1</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group; R<sup>2</sup> represents a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group; R<sup>3</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the ring containing the nitrogen atom and A; A represents CH<sub>2</sub>, or CH which forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom; L represents a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by (CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>n</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub> wherein n represents 1 or 2; X represents O, S or methylene group; and m represents 0 or 1, or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient, and a pharmaceutical additive.

Response to Response/Election Requirement  
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/019,249

14. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment~~A method for the prevention and/or treatment of hyperlipidemia which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

15. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of~~A method for preventing and/or treating arteriosclerosis which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

16. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent~~A method for suppressing foaming of a macrophage which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

17. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent~~A method for retracting arterial sclerosis lesions which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

18. (Amended) ~~The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent~~A method for inhibiting formation of arterial sclerosis lesions which comprises administering an effective amount of a composition according to claim 12 or 21 to a mammal.

20. (Amended) ~~A method for preventive-preventing and/or treatment-treating of arteriosclerosis, which comprises the step of administering a preventively and/or therapeutically an effective amount of the compound-a composition according to any one of Claims 1 to 11~~claim 12 or 21 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including human.

**Claim 21 is added.**